



**A SPECIAL MEETING
OF THE WESLACO CITY COMMISSION
AUGUST 18, 2011**

On this 18th day of August 2011 at 6:00 p.m., the City Commission of the City of Weslaco, Texas convened in Special Session at City Hall in the Legislative Chamber, located at 255 South Kansas Avenue with the following members present:

Mayor	Miguel D. Wise
Mayor Pro-Tem	J.F. "Johnny" Cuellar
Commissioner	Olga M. Noriega
Commissioner	Gerardo "Gerry" Tafolla
Commissioner	Lupe V. Rivera
Commissioner	Joe A. Martinez
City Manager	Leonardo Olivares
City Secretary	Elizabeth Walker

Also present: Bret Mann, Finance Director; Sonia Flores, Assistant Finance Director; David Salinas, Public Utilities Director; Police Chief Juan Sifuentes; Fire Chief Jimmy Cuellar; Arnold Becho, Library Director; George Gonzalez, Planning Director; Elvia Rios, Sponsored Projects Manager; Rosa Badillo, Court Administrator; Eddie Zepeda, IT; and other staff members and citizens.

I. CALL TO ORDER

- A. Certification of Public Notice.
Mayor Wise called the meeting to order and certified the public notice of the meeting as properly posted Monday, August 15, 2011.
- B. Pledge of Allegiance.
Mayor Wise recited the Pledge of Allegiance.
- C. Roll Call.
Elizabeth Walker, City Secretary, called the roll, noting Commissioner Garza as absent.

II. NEW BUSINESS

- A. Discussion and consideration of the City of Weslaco tax rate, take record vote and schedule public hearings for September 1, 2011 and September 6, 2011. Possible action.

Referencing some of the dialogue from the Workshop that immediately preceded this meeting, the City Manager stated this meeting is to comply with state law to set the tax rate, currently \$0.6967. He stated staff recommendation is to keep the property tax rate the same, as staff will later propose an increase in fines and fees as well as in utilities to reflect the actual costs of services.

Addressing a question from the Mayor Pro-Tem, the City Manager stated he believes with the current tax rate the City can present a balanced budget and set aside some fund balance. Commissioner Martinez inquired if there would be any layoffs; the City Manager stated there will be the same tax rate, same workload, and same productivity. Commissioner Tafolla commended those departments that do more with less, particularly the Police, Library, and City Secretary departments. The Finance Director stated last September there were 331 full-time positions; as of July, there are 277.

Commissioner Tafolla, seconded by Commissioner Rivera, moved to accept the current City of Weslaco tax rate for 2011-2012. The motion carried unanimously; Mayor Wise was present, but not voting.

III. PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no comments received.

IV. ADJOURNMENT

With no other business before the Commission, at 6:18 p.m. Mayor Pro-Tem Cuellar, seconded by Commissioner Tafolla, moved to adjourn the August 18, 2011 special meeting. The motion carried unanimously; Mayor Wise was present, but not voting.

CITY OF WESLACO

MAYOR, Miguel D. Wise

ATTEST:

CITY SECRETARY, Elizabeth M. Walker

MAYOR PRO-TEM, J.F. "Johnny" Cuellar

(absent)
COMMISSIONER, Robert J. Garza

COMMISSIONER, Olga M. Noriega

COMMISSIONER, Gerardo "Gerry" Tafolla

COMMISSIONER, Lupe V. Rivera

COMMISSIONER, Joe A. Martinez